Recent decades have seen substantial growth in the range of assistance programmes for SMEs and entrepreneurs across the world. Once regarded as peripheral to the economy and public policy, the role of small firms and of entrepreneurship is now recognized as of key importance in the economic growth and development strategies of many nations.

The range of interventions and support focused on promoting SMEs and entrepreneurship is substantial and expanding, so Government, SMEs and Entrepreneurship Development asks ‘what are some of the main policy instruments being used, and how effective are they?’ It considers policies in different countries, examines key interventions and tools used to promote entrepreneurship and SME development and concludes with contributions on how to best evaluate their effectiveness.

The contributor chapters by academics and practitioners from businesses, enterprise development agencies and governments, are empirical or evidence-based and use both quantitative and qualitative approaches. Drawing on experience from a wide range of both developed and emerging countries and economies, the contributions focus on the broad strategies that different governments and communities have adopted to foster entrepreneurship and SMEs; the policy tools and instruments that can be used to promote small business and entrepreneurship; and on the outcomes of policy instruments and the methods used to evaluate interventions. Their findings will help researchers, policy-makers, economic development officers, civil servants, elected officials, and business associations to better understand the issues in this important field.
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About the Editors:
Robert Blackburn is Director of Research, Faculty of Business and Law; Director of the Small Business Research Centre, Kingston University; and Editor-in-Chief of the International Small Business Journal. He has undertaken research for private and public sector organizations worldwide, including the European Commission, the UK’s HM Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs, and banks and support agencies. Robert is a member of the Executive of the European Council for Small Business and has been appointed to the REF2014 Business and Management panel which will be assessing the quality of research across universities across the UK. Robert has detailed experience of researching government-SME relationships, using qualitative and quantitative methods. His latest research involves understanding the role of trust in SME’s external relations and the effects of public policy interventions. Robert is a holder of the Queen’s Award for Enterprise Promotion.

Dr Michael T. Schaper is an Adjunct Professor at Curtin Business School, at Curtin University of Technology, Perth, Western Australia. He is also a deputy chair of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, having already served as the Australian Capital Territory Small Business Commissioner and as a policy advisor to government at both state and federal levels. Dr Schaper has been President of the Small Enterprise Association of Australia and New Zealand and a member of the board of directors of the International Council for Small Business. During his academic career he was Dean of Murdoch University Business School in Western Australia, Head of the School of Business at Bond University and held the foundation professorial chair in entrepreneurship and small business at the University of Newcastle. Dr Schaper has also held visiting professor posts at the Ecole de Management in Lyon, France and at the University of St Gallen, Switzerland. He is the author or co-author of nine business management books, and he has been a regular columnist in a number of national magazines, newspapers and journals on business issues.

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